

MELINEZ

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USER GROUP EXCHANGE MEMOTECH OFFER STRINGY FLOPPY REVIEW

INVERTING SCREEN DISPLAY TYPEWRITER INTERFACE GAME SCOREBOARD

TIMEX UPDATE

BY RITA CARR

* On 4/24/84, I spoke with Dan Higgenbottom from the Los Angeles area. He is organizing a venture capitalist effort to acquire the licensing rights from TIMEX COMPUTER CORP. This endevor combines some 47 companies into a publicly held subsidiary of Trinity Magnum of San Diego, CA. There are plans to open a nation wide chain of computer stores named "THE LITTLE COMPUTER STORE" carry all books, publications, 5 to 6 thousand pieces of software, and add-on devices. There will be opportunity for individual investors and user groups to obtain stock in Trinity Magnum and limited partnership in The Little Computer Store. Higgenbottom said the details should be made firm by the end of May, 1984. He also said he would send me the 3-14-84 press release he read to me over the phone. So far, I have received it nor have I been able to find a copy of it through my computer editor contact at the San Jose Mercury/News. I have also not been able to confirm this business deal with any of my sources.

* I am tracking an uncomfirmed rumor that General Electric is attempting to buy the licensing rights from TIMEX COMPUTER CORP., also.

* Radio Shack's TP-10 thermal printer paper

works well with

TIMEX TRADE-IN OFFER FROM MEMOTECH

Direct MASS. Memotech NEEDHAM. Sales Division announces a tradein, trade-up program. The World's premier manufacturer of Timex / Sinclair add-ons is allowing its Memopack customers to receive credit towards the purchase of the new MTX computer series.

The liberal trade policy provides the customer with up to three hundred thirty dollars allowance on Memotech's Timex / Sinclair Trade in values are: compatibles. 16K Memopack, twenty dollars; Memopack, forty dollars; Memopack, sixty dollars; High resolution graphics, forty dollars; RS 232 interface, forty dollars; Centronics parallel interface, thirty dollars; Memopack assembler, twenty dollars; Memocalc, twenty dollars; Memotext, twenty dollars; Memotech Keyboard, forty dollars.

Memotech will also allow a trade-in of <u>One Hundred dollars</u> for the computer towards the Sinclair purchase of any MTX computer. MTX512 computers start at \$595.00, which includes 64K user RAM, video RAM, and a 24K ROM, with company's exclusive interacting languages operating system, called This system allows five interacting command languages to be used by the programmer, with Basic,

(CONT. PAGE 32)

(c) IS THE JOINT PUBLICATION TIMELINEZ OF THREE TIMEX/SINCLAIR USER GROUPS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO/SAN JOSE/OAKLAND BAY OLD AND NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME - SO ARE HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND COMPUTER BEGINNERS. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING.

HARDWARE REVIEW

STRINGY FLOPPY for TIMEX 1500

The R & J MICRO DRIVE

There are now 4 Parts to the Laws of Computer Configuration: (1) If the Price is reasonable, expect the unexpected (unually a "K" cursor); (2) If the Price is too much, but you can still afford it, it will do a lot, but not what you bought it for; (3) If you can not afford it at all, it's exactly what you need, and your worst enemy has it; and (4) The A & J Micro Drive is the exception to all of the above. . It's Price is reasonable, it does what you buy it for, and the "K" cursor appears only when expected.

The Micro Drive is a system consisting of a high speed, continuous loop, tape "wafer" player, a power supply, cable, and interface which contains a ROM based fast loading Program. . system does not rely upon a sound recording device such as a tape recorder, but loads and saves at high speeds, directly through the accessory Port. . The result is that a 32K data file that takes 11.8 minutes to load from a tape recorder, loads in 46 seconds with 100% reliability. , Documentation consists of a 25 page, 8 1/2 x 11 inch booklet, that is very easy to understand.

The interface actually Provides two modes of operation. . If you are working with a full capacity program, and can spare no RAM for "frosting on the capacity cake", there is the "economy" mode that, with a "PRINT USR 12348" command, provides the four most needed functions, SAVE PROGRAM, LOAD PROGRAM, RETURN TO BASIC, and CERTIFY. . Even with the economy mode, routines within the basic program Permit commands to load and run another program on the same wafer, selection of an

alternate drive unit, writing variables into a data file elsewhere on the wafer, and to read or recall variables from a data file. . These "routine" commands can put another 16K to 32K of data at your fingertips in as little as 20 seconds. . What more could you want? Frosting, of course!

If the difference between RAM capacity and your program length leaves 1K to spare, a PRINT USR 12345 in the command mode, will produce this menu!

- 1. GET WAFER DIRECTORY
- 2. LOAD PROGRAM
- 3. SAVE BASIC PROGRAM
- 4. INITIALIZE WAFER
- 5. RETURN TO BASIC
- 6. LOAD BY NUMBER
- 7. SAVE MACHINE PROGRAM
- 8. SELECT DRIVE
- 9. COPY WAFERS

This menu's main feature is its provision of a directory to the programs on the wafer as well as a statement of the remaining bytes of storage available. . Wafers come in 5', 10', 20', 35', and 50' lengths. . Capacity is estimated at about 7,000 bytes per 5' in the loop. . A 35' loop will handle three 15K programs and the directory, with approximately 5,000 bytes left over for a short "starter" Program. . Most machine code Programs, including PRO/FILE can be saved with option 3. . Add to all this, the system functions with either a Memorak Parallel Interface or a T/S 2040 Printer in Place (watch out for the ZX PRO/FILE and the T/S 2040, they don't mix without modification). . Only option 7 Permits the machine code Program to selfstart. . Ah Hahl We finally come to the bad stuff!

While you can access the system menu from routines in your own basic programs, with commercial software, you have to break into the program to enter the USR

instruction in the command mode. . When you load (unless it is from a "chainin9" or option 7 routine), you are returned to the system menu where AOU must enter the RETURN TO BASIC instruction. This Produces a "K" cursor and you must enter the appropriate "GOTO" start-up command. . Hopefully, you will not accidently "RUN" or GOTO DIM or other Program line that could blow needed variables. Another regret, is that the chainin9 routine will RUN the designated Program, so, if it is a data file or Program making use of 1n memory, a second Pass through the wafer is necessary up the strings and variables from a separate data file.

Saving a self-starting machine code Program under option 7 in the expanded menu, requires that 90U know, and Provide, the start address, len9th a.rid autostant location of the Program. Some machine coded Programs contain commands that Poke into the top 1K used for the expanded menu. result is the system will not SAVE such Program, except in the which economy mode nemoves the chance for a self-start load under 7. . Hopefully, either A & J or the author of the Particular Program be able to MAY reconcile their Products.

An odd deficit, that is the wafer is so small, and it holds so much, that there isn't enough room label to list the wafer's the contents. . The unkindest cut all is that it does not appear that the system can be used conjunction with the Memotext word Processor which is easily the best thing available for the T/S 1000/1500. Luckily, Memotext EPROM, and only the text file is recorded anyway.

Admittedly, disc drive is a with faster, however 8. drive interface, power supply and cable, usually means \$500.00 or more, and

MANY familiar Programs a.re available except at new (and Greater) acquisition cost. The A J Micro Drive system, including 3 wafers to start U.P with. available at \$149.95 (Plus tax) shipping and C.O.D. charges) J Micro Drive, 1050 E. Duane Ave., Suite 1, Sunnyvale, CA. 94086, (408)732-9292. . With it, most of the Programs YOU alreads have Can continue to serve you, and better. . The Micro Drive is a definite step UP from the tape and a 900d compromise as recorder, against the cost of the disc drive. R.L. Huxtable

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(CONT. FROM 29)

the T/S printer. Print is darker and it sells at \$3.95/2 rolls.

--C. Raynak, T/S Users Group of Cleveland. (It is .33 inches smaller, but I understand that a poker chip inserted at each end will keep the paper from drifting back and forth.)

NOMPUTER BROGRAMS

Apr. 28 to May 4, 1984

Saturday
10:00 9 Bits And Bytes
11:00 50 New Literacy
16:30 50 Computer Programme
17:00 50 Making the most of the Micro

Sunday
19:00 54 New Tech Times
19:00 60 Bits And Bytes
19:30 54 Making the most of the micro
19:30 60 Computer Chronicles
(Evolution of the Computer)

Monday

05:00 50 Computer Chronicles
(Evolution of the Computer)

05:30 54 Computers at Work

15:30 9 New Literacy
15:30 90 New Literacy
18:30 32 New Literacy
19:30 45 Personal Computer Show

20:00 32 Bits And Bytes

Tuesday 18:00 48 Personal computer show 18:00 60 New Literacy 18:30 48 Computer Solutions

Wednesday 15:30 9 New Literacy 16:00 50 Bits And Bytes

Thursday
13:00 50 Computer Chronicles
18:00 40 Personal Computer Show
18:00 50 New Literacy
18:30 48 Personal Computer
Hot Line (1 hour)
21:30 60 Bits And Bytes

Friday 07:00 9 Computers at Work 12:00:54 Computers at Work 15:00:54 Computer Chronicles 18:00:32 Computers at Work 18:30:32 New Literacy

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(CONT. FROM 29)

Noddy, graphics, assembler, and networking. Additionally, a front panel register display is included.

The system allows for various expansion capabilities, including RS-232 (\$695.00), Word processing with computer, printer, and New Word on ROM (\$999.00), and twin disc system with 1MB unformatted storage (\$1,995.00). Local area networking capabilties are possible with the Oxford Ring package for each computer on the net (\$174.50).

You can trade in, now, and start computing with the powerful MTX series computers. Memotech has a local representative, Bill Savage, in Cupertino. Call 408-446-5029.

SINCLAIR OL UPDATE

Upcoming events and dates of importance for those interested in the AMERICAN QL.

- * May 30 BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY First official U.S. showing of the QL.
- * June 3-6 CHICAGO CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW (CES) The QL will be Sinclair's featured attraction at booth 5116, McCormick West.

This information comes from the TIMEX-SINCLAIR SHOPPER, a new publication supported by Sinclair Research and many major Timex-Sinclair third party suppliers (Sunset Electronics has an ad inside). TIMEX-SINCLAIR SHOPPER is available through:

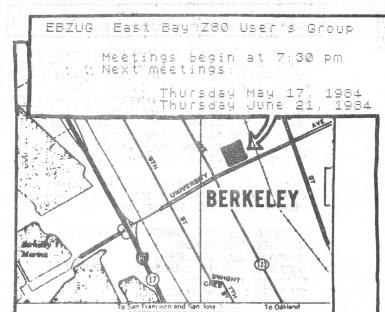
TS NEWS 67 Elm Street Camden, ME 04843

Sinclair Research is compiling a QL mailing list. To be included write to:

Sinclair Research 50 Stanford Street Boston, MA 02114

Sinclair Research is sticking to their fall release date for the American ΘL .

Bay Area User Group Information



We currently use the public meeting room of the West Branch of the Berkeley Public Library. Meetings are generally on the third Thursday of each month — watch for announced changes in this box. Tables and limited power outlets are available (bring power strips) so your equipment is always welcome.

For more information contact

Joel Brody 3807 Elston Oakland, CA 94602 (415) 531-8566

Or (Newsletter Ed. and Info.)

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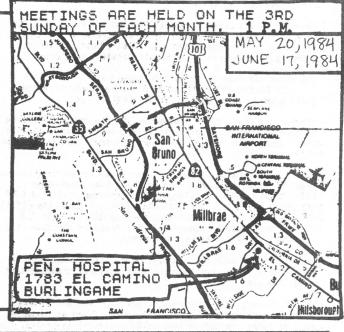
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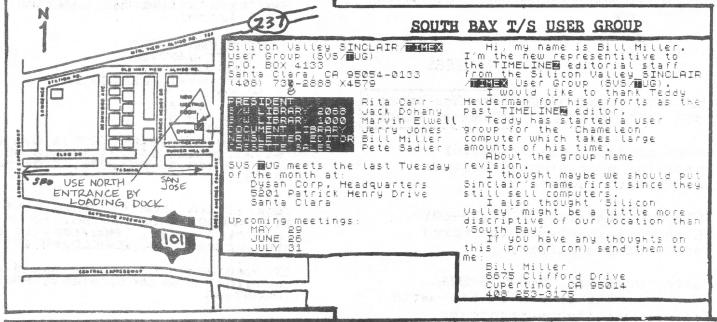
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TAMING THE BUG IN From The T/S Users VU-CALC T/S 2068 Group of Cincinnati

If you have tried to use Yu-Calc for the T/S 2068, then most likely you've met the bug. At the beginning, he stays pretty much hidden. It is only after you get used to the program and start doing something useful that he deals his apparently fatal bite.

A sample session with Vu-Calc might go something like this:

Yu-Calc is loaded into the T/S 2068 - no problem. The title and then The Screen\$ appear and soon the Vu-Calc spreadsheet itself is on the screen... reacy to use. Let's start with something simple, like a loan payoff schedule (maybe not so simple). Anyway, you get the spreadsheet set up the way you want it. Now, you save the data to tape using the option from within Yu-Calc - #1 [ENTER]. With that spreadsheet safely saved, we move on to create another masterpiece. To clear the work sheet we give the command to quite (#q 'return) and we choose the option 2: CLEAR WORKSHEET.

Now, with a clear worksheet, you can start setting up another valuable spreadsheet. Wrong!! Any formula or calculations entered to the program will kick you out and 60 TO 9000 won't work. The bug has bitten!

The option "2 : CLEAR WORKSHEET" is the culprit. This was supposed to allow the set up of a new spreadsheet or the reloading of a previously set up Vu-Calc, but it failed. There is, however, an easy, almost trivial, solution.

The first statement in line 3200 should be 3200 CLEAR 29327: and then the remainder of Psions BASIC statement (DIM b\$(100): DIM c\$(20): etc.).

Without the Clear 29327 statement, The DIM statements cause other variables to be overwritten and lost - namely: e2, e3, bfre, dcontx and others. Not only are their values lost, but they cannot be reassigned!

You now have the solution, now here's how to make the change. row nave the solution, now here's now to make the change. From the Yu-Calc program, choose " #q" and then option EXIT PROGRAM . You should get the error report of " 9 STOP statement, 3100:2" . Press [CAPS SHIFT] 6, and then [CAPS SHIFT]] to edit the BASIC program line 3200. Press " X" (CLEAR) and type the number 29327 followed by the colon (:) and press ENTER . That is the change.

To get started back into Vu-Calc, enter the command: GO TO 3200 [ENTER]. You now have the cleared Vu-Calc spreadsheet ready for use.

With the change made as above, I have not had any problems with the workings of Vu-Calc. There are other shortcomings such as being limited to numbers of seven digits or less, but at least it works.

Hope this helps a little.

BY: GARY SZEKERES

SOME AT TIMEX

NAMES From The Boston Computer Society

Here are a couple of useful names of people who still work at TIMEX Computers.

Elaine Cristillo, 203-573-6815. Elaine is involved with third party documentation.

Cathy Hoolihan, 203-573-5246. Cathy is the person to talk with if you want to buy products C-- TIMEY

FROM THE TRIANGLE TIMEX USER'S GROUP IN NORTH CAROLINA

Here's a way of going through the display file and darkening up each dot. You can then print out a nice dark, hard copy image. This phenomenal routine was developed for the T/S 2068 by Dick Scoville. TIMELINEZ has done a little work on the basic program and explanation to make it a little more clear.

Here is the program in Z80 mnemoncs and in decimal and in hex--all 29 bytes of it:

57786 LD DE, 88DD 56576 57789 PUSH DE 57790 LD BC,0003 57793 LD HL, (365C) 768 CHARS 57796 INC H 57797 LD A, (HL) 57798 AND A 57799 RRA 57800 DR (HL) 57801 LD (DE),A 57802 INC HL 57803 INC DE 57883 INC DE 57884 DEC C JR NZ,F6 DJNZ F4 57797 57885 57797 57897 57889 POP HL DEC H 57810 CHARS 57811 LD (365C),HL RET NOP NOP 57814 57815 57816 57817

213 1 17 221 182 18 167 31 92 35 126 54 16 244 35 19 13 32 245 201 92

90 5C 13 96 1F 10 12 E1 **B**6 36 23 7E 20 5C 87 24 F6

And here is the Basic/decimal POKE listng:

> 1 CLEAR 56575 2 LET a=57786

3 READ n

4 IF n=-1 THEN GO TO 8 5 POKE a,n

6 LET a=a+1 7 GO TO 3

8 STOP

9 DATA 17,0,221,213,1,0,3,42, 54,92,36,126,167,31,182,18,35,19 ,13,32,246,16,244,225,37,34,54,9 2,201,-1

Type it in, RUN it, then List and RANDOMZE USR 57786. Behold a darker image. Now copy it on the printer and BEHOLD MAGIC!!

If you want to recover the old original alphabet, simply POKE 23607,60.

IMELINEZ

GAME SCOREBOARD

Load the program with LOAD "GS". After the initial graphics, the screen will ask "HOW MANY PLAYERS?". Respond by entering as many as you need (up to 12 without modifying the program).

Then the screen asks, "WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES?". Enter each name (up to 12 letters) followed by ENTER. After all the names have been entered, the game

format comes on the screen.

As each name is shown on the screen, for example, "ENTER NEW SCORE FOR: KEN", enter the numerical score for KEN.

If the score is zero, just press ENTER. If the score is negative, key in the minus sign (SHIFT J) before keying in the number, then press ENTER. That number will be subtracted from the previous total for that player.

The screen also asks if you want to play again with the same (S) or new (N) players. By entering S or N and ENTER, the appropriate routine will be exe-

cuted.

Tips for keying in the program. Lines 325-335 contain 31 spaces after the letter. Line 340 contains 32 spaces.

Kendric C. Smith, Pres. SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS 927 Mears Court Stanford, CA 94305

```
1 SLOW 3 PRINT AT 7,5; "GAME SCOREBOA RD: ""GS""" 5 PAUSE 60 10 PRINT AT 10,14; "BY" 15 PAUSE AT 13,7; "KENDRIC C. 3 MITH" 25 PAUSE 60 27 50 LET Y=4 60 GOSUT X=4 TO 16 75 LET X=27 80 GOSUT X=27 80 GOSUT X=16 100 NEXT Y=16 120 NEXT Y=16 120 NEXT Y=16 120 NEXT Y=16 120 NEXT Y=16 NEXT Y=16 NEXT Y=16 NEXT Y=16 NEXT Y=16 NEXT Y=16 NEXT Y=180 NEXT Y=180
```

```
200 CLS
205 PRINT AT 11,7;" HOW MANY PL
AYERS?"
 207 PRINT AT 20,0;"KEY IN NUMBE
R AND PRESS ""ENTER"""
210 INPUT Y
215 CLS
220 PRINT AT 11.5;" WHAT ARE TH
EIR NAMES?
222 PRINT AT 20,0; "KEY IN A NAM
E AND PRESS ""ENTER"""
  225 DIM A$(Y,12)
230 FOR N=1 TO Y
235 INPUT A$(N)
          NEXT N
  240
245
         DLS
DIM B$(Y,4)
DIM C$(Y,32)
FOR N=1 TO Y
LET B$(N)="0"
NEXT N
PRINT "
   250
  255
260
  265
270
272
                       GAME SCOREBOA
RD
 275 PRINT AT 2,2;"PLAYER";AT 2,
16;"SCORE"
280 PRINT
285 FOR N=1 TO Y
290 PRINT N;TAB 3;A$(N);TAB 17;
 B $ (N)
295 NEXT N
300 PRINT AT 20,0;" NE
W GAME?
## GAME?

305 PRINT AT 21,3; "SAME OR NEW PLAYERS? (8/N)"

310 FOR N=1 TO Y

315 PRINT AT 16,0; "ENTER NEW SC ORE FOR:"; " "; A$(N)

320 INPUT C$(N)

325 IF C$(N) = "S
                                    OR C$(N) ="N
 N CL5
| 330 IF C$(N)="5
                                    THEN GOTO 260
  335 IF C$(N)="N
                                    THEN GOTO 205
   340 IF C$(N)="
                                " THEN LET C$(N) =
  .. 0 ..
    530 LET B$(N)=STR$ (VAL B$(N)+V
  AL C$(N))
  540 PRINT AT (2+(N+1)),0;N;"
;A$(N);" ";B$(N)
545 NEXT N
    550 GOTO 310
560 SAVE "G5"
570 GOTO 1
    560
570
```

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IMMERTING SCREEN DISPLAY

BY: WILLIAM SORDON

A display routine may be enhanced by flashing the screen, or by changing the screen from white to black. the following is a short routine which almost instantly inverts the screen display of the TS1888/TS1588 to white on black, or vice versa.

- 81. REM 81234567898123456789812345678
- 10. LGT A\$="2A0C400616237EFE76280EFE 803805DG807718F1C6807718EC8520E9C9
- 15. LGT X= 16514
- 28. for N=1 to LGN A\$-1 Step 2
- 25. POKE X,16*CODE A\$(N)+CODE A\$(N+1)-476
- 30. LET X=X+1

16523

16524

28

8E

JR 2,14

35. NEXT N

First, start your program with 81 REM followed by 29 characters. It makes no difference what they are, but if you use 8 through 9 repeatedly, it is easier to keep count. The actual hexidecimal listing of the routine is in the string A\$ as set up by line 18. The rest of the program, lines 15 through

35, is a loader program designed to replace the characters in the REM statement with the codes represented by each pair of hex digits.

Run the program once. The REM statement now looks very strange, but contains the entire routine. All the lines but the REM statement can now be deleted and your own program can be typed in. Any time you want to invert the screen, simply add a program line RAND USR 16514.

This routine can also be used to simulate the flash function of the TS2868. To flash the screen 6 times and return to the original color screen, call a subroutine like this.

1888. FOR N=1 to 6

1885. RAND USR 16514

1010. FOR J=1 to 5

1915. NEXT J

1828. NEXT N

1825. RETURN

Different values of J will vary the speed of the flash effect.

ADDRESS	HEX	ARSEMBLED	EFFECT DE INSTRUCTION
16514	2A	LD HL (16346)	Load the HL pair with the address of the start as contained in the system variable "D file" located at address 16396 + 16397.
16515	8 C		
16516	48		
16517	96	LD B,22	Load the B register with the num- ber of lines to be altered (22).
16518	16		The state of the s
	23	INC HL	Increase the address contained in HL by one. #
16529	7E	LD A(HL)	Load the A register with the character code found at address HL.
16521	FE	CP,118	Check if it is an "ENTER" (Code 118), if so JUMP to the instruc-
			tion located 14 bytes further a- long (at address 16539) other- wise, proceed to the instruction at 16525.
16522	76		

16525	FE	CP,128	See if the character is normal black on white (code smaller than 128). If so JUMP 5 bytes to the instruction at address 16534. If it is already inverse (white on black) (Code 128, or larger, THEN).
16526	80		
16527	38	JR C.5	
16528	95	OK 0,0	
	_	70.1.18% A 4.70.7%	
16529	86	SUB A,128	Normalize it by subtracting 128 from its code.
16530	80		
16531	77	LD HL>,A	Replace the code in the display within the new normalized one.
1 6532	18	JR,-15	JUMP back 15 bytes to address 16519 and do again for the next character.
16533	F1		
		ADD A 120	If the change has use come!
16534	Cé	ADD A,128	If the character was normal, make inverse by adding 128 to its code.
16536	77	LD (HL),A	Replace the code in the display file with the new inverted one.
16537	16	JR,-20	JUMP back 20 bytes to address 16519 and do again for next char- acter.
14538	EC		Sec. 6.4.1. 5
	400	DEC D	If the last character checked was
16539	95	DEC B	an "ENTER" (Code 118) end of line, decrease line counter by one, and if the counter is not 8, Jump back to 16519 to start the
			next line.
4 4 80 4 4	m A	869 A.19 65 65	IIAV P I IIIA 9
16540	20	JR NZ,-23	
16541	EP		
16542	CS	RETURN	If the counter is 0, all lines have been changed, return to the basic program.

The display file starts with an "ENTER" character so the second byte of the file is actually the first one to be displayed on the screen.

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INTERFACING AN ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER TO A ZX81

In order to connect my ZX81 to an Olivetti Praxis 41, I went thru months of fustration. We wanted an electronic typewriter since the print quality is super. It has daisywheels at 10,12 and 15 characters/inch. One can type part of a letter and then insert computerized paragraphs.

However the interface that OEMI sold me did not work. Instead traded it in for a Selectone interface that is adjustable for serial and parallel interfaces. You can adjust for the fact that the ZX81 does not send the proper signal for "next line" (Norman's problem). If you call Tony Medina at (800)421-5389 he will provide the proper cable since he wrote down what he did to get my parallel interface to work.

I also bought an amber 12" screen, Memotext and parallel interface from Memotech, and a 2amp powerpack from Sinclair Place. Wordprocessing ended up costing almost \$900, but most of it is reusable on another computer. Also the prices of electronic gear is dropping ever day. Now all I need is a buffer. Someday.

VIVIAN NELSON MITCHELL

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